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SACRAMENTO MAN SENTENCED TO 30 MONTHS IN STOLEN MAIL CASE

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that WILLIAM HUGH BENSON, 41, of Sacramento, was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Court Judge David F. Levi in Sacramento to thirty months in prison in connection with a stolen mail scheme. BENSON pled guilty to possessing stolen mail on July 25, 2003. Parole has been abolished in the federal criminal system, and BENSON will be required by law to serve at least 85 percent of the prison time imposed.

As part of his guilty plea, BENSON admitted that he and co-defendant Thomas Robinson were part of a scheme to possess fraudulent checks which were stolen from the mail. Included among this mail were checks which had been fraudulently altered so that the payee read "William Benson" or "Thomas Robinson." Co-defendant Robinson pled guilty to possessing stolen mail on September 4, 2003, and is set to be sentenced by Judge Levi on December 4, 2003.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James P. Arguelles and was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Sacramento Sheriff's Department.

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